



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



ZIMMERMAN TESTIFIES BEFORE U. S. HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman testified before the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Thursday, August 14, in Hot Springs. The hearing drew a large crowd of over 400 veterans and community leaders.

Those testifying included Save the VA committee member Amanda Campbell and Committee co-chairs Pat Russell and Bob Nelson, as well as Oglala Sioux Tribal President Brian Brewer, S.D. American Legion Commander Tim Jurgens, SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman, VABHCS Director Steve DiStasio and Dr. Steven Julius, the medical director for Veterans Integrated Service Network 23.

In his testimony, Secretary Zimmerman noted that veterans healthcare is a critical issue and that for over 100 years the VA Black Hills Health Care System and the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home have worked together to provide care for veterans.

"The service to our veterans is essential to keeping our promise to them for their sacrifices to our country's freedoms," said Secretary Zimmerman. "We will stand up and fight for these services so that no veteran suffers from lack of care."

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Heroes Among Us—showcasing 125 South Dakota veterans.



HISTORY MADE RESEARCHING HISTORY



Pearl Buck once said, "If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday." And that is exactly what the Department of Veterans Affairs set out to do when they selected two interns to work on the history at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Jerred Tarrell, a student at Presentation College, spent his summer researching, studying and documenting the history of our heroes buried in the State Veterans Home Cemetery.

Nicole Christiansen, a student from Northern State University, spent her summer compiling the history on the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. Her sto-

ry contains the 19th century beginnings, the 20th century growth and change and the 21st century today and our sustainable future.

Both spent their summer digging through old historical documents, conducting interviews and researching historical files at libraries and newspapers.

Our special thanks to Nicole and Jerred for dedicating their summer to help us develop our story

as well as the story of our heroes. We appreciate their expertise and leadership.

Their success will ensure that we will continue to grow this project.



"History is a symphony of echoes heard and unheard. It is a poem with events as verses."
Charles An-goff



VA EXPANDS PATIENT-CENTERED COMMUNITY CARE CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that primary care has been added to the services available to veterans through VA's Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) contracts, a key and evolving part of the non-VA medical care program. Eligible veterans are already able to access inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care and limited newborn care for female veterans following childbirth under PC3.

This modification supports the VA's Accelerated Care Initiative, helping to move veterans off of waitlists and into care. Additionally, reduced commuting standards will require that contracted providers schedule appointments closer to the veterans' homes.

The initial PC3 contracts were awarded in September 2013 to Tri-West and HealthNet and have been used as part of the non-VA medical care program to purchase care in the community.

VA Medical Centers have the ability to purchase non-VA medical care for veterans through contracted medical providers when they cannot readily provide the needed care due to geographic inaccessibility or limited capacity. This additional option is available to purchase non-VA medical care when required veteran care services are unavailable within the VA medical facility, or when veterans benefit from receiving the needed care nearer to their homes. In addition, the VA is reviewing how PC3 may be used to help implement the newly enacted Veterans Choice, Access, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Through PC3, veterans can expect to receive high-quality health care that is coordinated with their VA providers. For more information on PC3, visit <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/PC3/index.asp>. VISN 23 (Region IV) has been awarded to Health Net Federal Services, LLC.



BROWN JOINS SDDVA TEAM

Erin Brown is the new claims examiner at the Sioux Falls SDDVA office.

Erin previously worked as a county veteran service officer in Stearns County, Minnesota. Prior to that she worked with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Higher Education Program.

Erin currently resides in Luverne and in the future will be relocating to Sioux Falls. Erin and her husband Matthew have a one-year old daughter Kaitlyn.

Eris was a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard for nine years and served in Iraq from 2005 to 2007.

Erin enjoys working with veterans and is excited to be a part of the SDDVA team.



HEROES AMONG US

For those of us that have had the distinct honor and privilege to meet Tom Inman, we know that he is an individual that lives his soldiers creed daily — “I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; and I will never leave a fallen comrade.” To some, these may be just words, but to Tom Inman they have become his way of life. Every day he dedicates his time to ensure our heroes at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home are taken care of with love and respect.

Tom proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1973-1975. As a member of the American Legion and the Legion Riders, he continues his commitment to honor those that serve.

For many it is difficult to appreciate what the phrases “I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; and I will never leave a fallen comrade.” mean to heroes like Tom Inman.

Thursday during the MJF State Veterans Home construction committee meeting, SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman and Lt. Gov. Michels had the distinct honor to commend Tom Inman for his gallant efforts in helping an accident victim. He was the first upon the scene and used his soldiers creed, his first responders knowledge, his



love of life

“it is very exciting to have people like Tom working for us. “People that step up and help those in need, any time,” said SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman. “Courageous heroes like Tom think of others before they think of themselves.”

Thank you Tom, for your service to this great country and to your continued services to South Dakota’s veterans.



HIGHWAY 100 COULD BE NAMED FOR VETERANS

The future Highway 100 in Sioux Falls could be known as the Veterans Memorial Parkway. The Sioux Falls City Council is taking steps to make the name official.

Work will start next year to extend parts of the highway, now known as Powder House Road, from Madison Street, north to Interstate 90. The highway will eventually loop the east and southern edge of the city, parallel to I-29. The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday on a resolution to name the highway. It now goes to the state's transportation commission.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE RENAMING OF SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY 100 TO VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARKWAY.

WHEREAS, South Dakota has a proud and distinguished history of dedicated military service by men and women of this state whose courage, heroism, and sacrifice preserve the liberties and democratic way of life set forth in our state and federal constitutions; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota is the proud home of more than 75,000 military veterans who have served their country long and well and who bring great honor and distinction to the state; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota is home not only to active duty service personnel and veterans but also to the countless family members of these men and women who display the same dedication, courage, and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, we should never forget the sacrifices made by more than 2,800 South Dakotans, including 294 military personnel from Minnehaha and Lincoln counties since World War I, who gave the ultimate sacrifice defending the principles of freedom, liberty, and justice; and

WHEREAS, in times of conflict around the globe, it is particularly appropriate to recognize South Dakotans in all branches and components of the Armed Services who serve around the world to protect the security and peace of our nation and other nations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, SD: That the Sioux Falls City Council strongly urges the South Dakota Department of Transportation to rename South Dakota Highway 100 and its future expansion to Veterans' Memorial Parkway.

MILITARY YOUTH VISIT STATE VETERANS HOME



Campers from the 2014 South Dakota National Guard Military Youth Leadership Camp took time out of their schedule to stop and visit heroes at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

From the looks of things, we're not sure who was having more fun!!!! Leon Taylor and

Clarence Jerke seemed to be very pleased that the group stopped for a visit!!!



BOSSLIFT BRINGS EMPLOYERS TO MILITARY TRAINING

Seven employers from eastern South Dakota got the chance to see their military employees in uniform during the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift, Aug. 6-7, at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

The two-day event brought the employers onto the training ground of the South Dakota National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, during the unit's two-week annual training.

There, the employers witnessed the unit going through battle drills, simulating artillery fire missions and performing maintenance on their vehicles as the Soldiers brushed up on their wartime skills.

They also practiced military weapons familiarization and convoy operations in the Guard's computerized training systems, and rode in a Humvee at a dusty training site.

The idea was to give the employers a better understanding of their employees' roles in the military, and to answer some of the questions about what exactly those Soldiers do when they leave work for training or deployment.

"The intent of the Bosslift program is to acquaint employers of Guard and Reserve members with what their Guard or Reserve members do when they're away on some kind of training," said Ron Mielke, state chair, South Dakota ESGR. "It makes it a lot easier for the employer to understand that they're not just going away for two weeks to have fun, but they've got realistic training that helps them be able to do their job better, to be safe, to prepare them to do their mission in a wartime environment and come home safe."

The amount of work that Soldiers put in during their required training periods surprised some of the employers, who aren't always familiar with the specifics of their employees' military jobs.

ESGR, which regularly hosts Bosslifts across the nation, also uses the events to educate military bosses on their rights and responsibilities as military employers, and connects them with hiring tools like the Hero2Hired program to find more service members with suitable skills for their businesses.

During the Bosslift, the employers pledged their support to their Guard and Reserve members through the signing of statements of support. Additionally, Neuman received the Patriot Award, recognizing her for her outstanding support of her employee's participation in the National Guard.

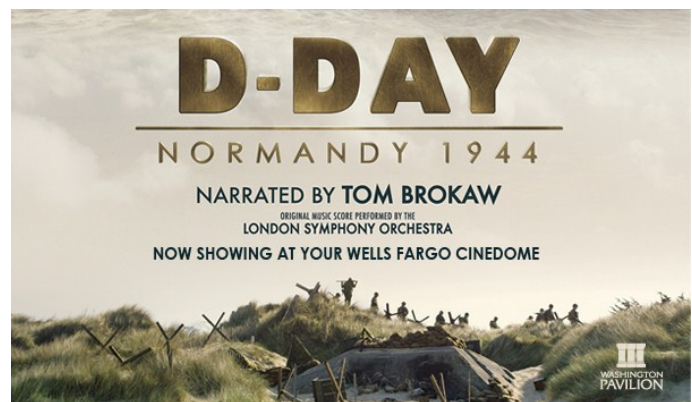
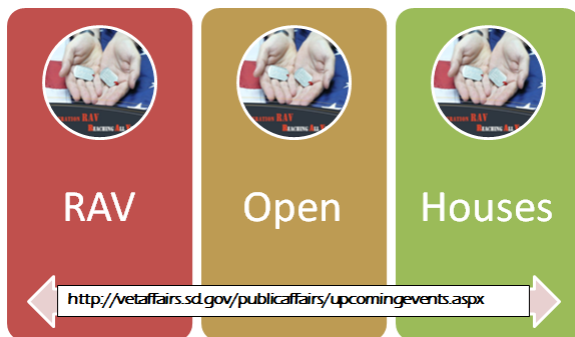
On the military side, unit members and leadership said they appreciated having their employers visit the training and all the support they receive from their bosses on a regular basis.



Upcoming Events

2014

Aug. 20—Annual SFVAHCS Show and Shine
Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA
Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
Aug. 30— 727th DAV 10th Annual Charity Poker Run—Brookings—10:00 am
Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner
Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls
Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am



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